STUDENT OPPORTUNITY

The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL) Marine Education Center (MEC) has an exciting opportunity for Junior/Senior level high school students and community college students to fully participate in a research project that will answer life history questions of the southern flounder, *Paralichthys lethostigma*, within the Mississippi Sound. This is a unique volunteer opportunity that will provide a great deal of experience in the scientific process. Selected students will be introduced to the various hypotheses and experimental design, aide in developing new sampling gear, and collect, process and analyze the collected data. This project will shed light on the reproductive biology, age structure and seasonal movements of the southern flounder within the Mississippi Sound and its watersheds which will be useful information for resource managers. Selected students will gain a better understanding and appreciation of the scientific process through the development of the project hypotheses, experimental design, new sampling gear designs, data collection and laboratory analysis. Time commitments will vary based on student availability. Interested students are encouraged to apply by November 21, 2014. The application and application instructions can be found at the following link: www.usm.edu/gcrl/mec.